



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Amendment

LCO No. 7312

SB0096707312HR0

Offered by:

REP. WASSERMAN, 106th Dist.

REP. MICHELE, 77th Dist.

SEN. HANDLEY, 4th Dist.

SEN. CRISCO, 17th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 967

File No. 192

Cal. No. 589

(As Amended)

**"AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND."**

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- 1 Strike section 501 and substitute the following in lieu thereof:
- 2 "Sec. 501. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a council to
- 3 monitor the activities of the Board of Education and Services for the
- 4 Blind in carrying out its mission and statutorily prescribed duties.
- 5 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:
- 6 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
- 7 one who shall be a person with expertise in business administration
- 8 and financial management;

9 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
10 is a representative of a state-wide organization that represents the
11 interests of the blind;

12 (3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
13 Representatives who is an adult with blindness, receiving services
14 from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind;

15 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who is an
16 adult with blindness, receiving services from the Board of Education
17 and Services for the Blind;

18 (5) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
19 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
20 relating to human services, or their designees;

21 (6) The chairpersons of the legislative program and review
22 committee, or their designees;

23 (7) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
24 secretary's designee;

25 (8) The Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, or the
26 commissioner's designee;

27 (9) The Commissioner of the Department of Education, or the
28 commissioner's designee;

29 (10) The executive director of the Board of Education and Services
30 for the Blind, or the director's designee.

31 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subdivision (5) or
32 (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General
33 Assembly.

34 (d) All appointments to the council shall be made no later than
35 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
36 filled by the appointing authority.

37 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
38 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council,
39 from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall
40 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later
41 than July 1, 2003. The council shall meet at least monthly thereafter
42 until February 1, 2004, and shall terminate not later than July 1, 2004.

43 (f) The council, in consultation with the Board of Education and
44 Services for the Blind shall establish benchmarks concerning agency
45 management, operations and services. The council shall: (1) Monitor
46 the activities of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind
47 regarding: (A) The quality, efficiency and equity of (i) educational
48 services for children who are blind or visually impaired, (ii) home and
49 daily living skills services for persons who are blind, (iii) vocational
50 rehabilitation services and programs for persons who are blind, (iv)
51 outreach efforts to identify and provide information and services to
52 elderly persons who are blind, (B) the provision of employment
53 training and experience in a competitive work environment and
54 availability of the broadest employment and entrepreneurial
55 opportunities for individuals who are blind, (C) the development and
56 implementation of strategic planning efforts, (D) the accountability of
57 fiscal operations, including, but not limited to, the preparation of a
58 detailed program budget and expenditure reports, (E) agency
59 implementation of the administrative recommendations contained in
60 the December, 2002 Legislative Program Review and Investigations
61 Committee on the Board of Education and Services vending
62 operations; and (2) develop recommendations for proposed changes in
63 the organizational structure of the Board of Education and Services for
64 the Blind.

65 (g) Not later than February 1, 2004, the council shall submit a report
66 on the progress made by the Board of Education and Services for the
67 Blind in meeting benchmarks established by the council to the joint
68 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
69 matters relating to human services, appropriations and the budgets of
70 state agencies and education, in accordance with the provisions of

71 section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall also include
72 legislative proposals and recommendations for proposed changes in
73 the organizational structure of the Board of Education and Services for
74 the Blind.

75 (h) Failure by the Board of Education and Services for the Blind to
76 meet specific benchmarks established by the council may result in the
77 transfer of authority and related funding for deficient programs and
78 services to another state agency."